

FREE

Sheffield TIMES

☛ A Cobble discovery,
page 20
☛ A Sheffield love
story, page 5

Community News for Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA SECOND GENERATION Vol. IX, Issue 5 **May/June 2010**

SHEFFIELD WATER CO. SEEKS TO ADD TANK

The Sheffield Water Co., founded in 1895 and serving 480 customers in the center of Sheffield, is planning to upgrade its water storage infrastructure. The company has been mandated by the state to increase the amount of water it can store to ensure customers a two-day supply. To do that, the company has proposed installing a 250,000-gallon water storage tank near the company's springs and reservoirs on Water Farm Rd., where the company owns some 400 acres.

The tank will not only give the system an emergency supply, it will stabilize water pressure for customers. It will also make sure there is enough water and increase pressure for fire hydrants.

The cost of the tank is estimated to be nearly half a million dollars. To pay for it and other improvements, the company is seeking to raise its rates. The last rate



The one reservoir currently operating in the Sheffield Water Co.'s system.

increase was in 2001.

"Our rates are currently very low compared to other systems," says Beth Bartholomew, president of the company, which is a privately held public utility. She points to Egremont, where rates are currently several times what Sheffield's are. "We probably would have gone for an increase in 2006, but because of my husband Dana's death, we were delayed."

The company's current base charge is \$57 a quarter. Under the rate application, that would increase by about \$100, or 158 percent, which has raised concern among some customers. The company has applied for a low-interest loan from the state to fund the improvements. If the loan is approved, the rate increase would be held to 98 percent.

Any increase must be approved by the state Dept. of Public Utilities, which held a hearing on March 18 at Mt. Everett High School. Some 50 people attended but comment was limited. (Customers with questions can contact the company.)

Word on state approval could come any time in the next 11 months, Bartholomew said, and she hopes the tank can be built soon.

The area served by the Sheffield Water Co. runs down Route 7 from the Sheffield-Egremont Rd. to Pike Rd., where one of the company's two wells is located. It goes as far west as the Southern Berkshire Regional School District property on Berkshire School Rd. and as far east as some houses on Home Rd. and Water Farm Rd.

The rate increase would also cover some routine improvements. The company plans to replace water mains on North Main St. (Route 7), Miller Ave., Frederic Lane and Hewins St. and upgrade fire hydrants throughout the system—work that will cost close to another half a million dollars.

The company's second well is located in the woods off Maple Ave. Water from the two wells is pumped up the hill to

Continued on page 3

REMEMBER TO VOTE!

NEW 7AM EARLY HOURS

The Town election is Mon., May 10, 7am to 7pm at Sheffield's Town Hall. For transportation assistance please contact the Senior Center at 229-7022. For pre-arranged accommodations at the polls, please contact the Town Clerk's office at 229-7000 x151.

TOWN MEETING RESULTS

All but one of the articles on the warrant passed at Sheffield's Annual Town Meeting on May 3. The article asking to activate the state's lodging tax was tabled.

In This Issue

Community

Apple pie contest, Parades	2
Greenagers do farm work	3
Farmers Market, Folk Series	4
How We Came to Sheffield	5
News from Mt. Everett	6
Mowing tips	7

Centenarian honored, raffle surprise Library

Library news, kids' programs	9
Village Green	
Senior Center news, recycling	10
Board of Selectmen meeting minutes	11
Planning Board, Waste Task Force	13
Disabilities seminar, Mosquito Control	14
Police Dept. news, Cultural Council	15

Conservation Commission Organizations & Businesses

Land Trust news	17
Historical Society events	18
Kiwanis events	19
Cobble news, events	20
American Legion Hall redone	21
Fire log, real estate transfers	22
Calendar page	23

Advertise in a hometown paper!

The *Sheffield Times*

accepts advertisements from...

- ☛ Sheffield businesses
- ☛ Sheffield residents
- ☛ Regional businesses that benefit Sheffield

No editorial or political advertisements

Contact Tara White

at 229-7754 or

sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com

for rates and information

Sheffield TIMES

Community Newsletter for
Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA

Editors: Kathy Orlando & Andrea Scott

Layout: Andrea Scott

Advertising Sales: Tara White

Distribution: Inez Flinn, Dave Smith, Sr.
Staff: Sandy & Dale Alden, Rae Eastman,
Gillian Hettinger, Ellen Rowntree, Peter
Rowntree, Judy Schumer, Ellen Weiss,
Barbara West, John Wightman

Published by

The Sheffield Association

P.O. Box 1339

Sheffield, MA 01257

sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com

www.sheffieldtimes.org

Working since 2001 to foster communication
among the people, businesses and organizations
of Sheffield and Ashley Falls

Photo credits: Andrea Scott, page 1, 3, 9; Will Conklin, 3;
Pauline Clarke, 5; Julie Hammum, 8; Laura Grunfeld, 14;
Pauline Schumann, 17; Rick Boardman, 22.

2ND ANNUAL APPLE PIE CONTEST ON THE WAY

Calling all bakers for the 2nd Annual Apple Pie Contest at the *Sheffield Fair*, Saturday, September 11, as part of *Sheffield in Celebration*.

The contest is open to bakers in three age groups (juniors are ages 17 or younger, seniors are 60 or older, and adults are everyone in between). Pies must be submitted in a non-returnable pan and be wrapped in a clear plastic bag, with a written list of ingredients included. No food mixes can be used.

Pies will be judged on their appearance, aroma, flakiness of the crust and

taste, with first, second and third prize winners awarded in the three age categories. The judges' decisions are final.

All pies - including winners - will be sold by the piece to benefit the *Sheffield Fair* and *Sheffield in Celebration*.

For more information and to register for the contest, contact Barbara Delmolino, 576 Lime Kiln Rd., Great Barrington, MA 01230, or by phone at 229-8696, or e-mail at sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com. Please include your name, address, phone number, email (if you have one) and age group.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADES

The Ashley Falls parade starts at 8am on the Green, then proceeds down E. Main St. to the cemetery on Clayton Rd.; The Sheffield parade starts at 11am at the Police Station then proceeds up Rte 7 to Barnard Park.

SUPPORT THE SHEFFIELD TIMES!

If you haven't sent in your contribution, do it now!

AND THANK YOU!

Thanks to all our loyal and generous supporters! You keep us going.

If we missed you in this issue, we'll catch you in the next.

Ron Bubak
Neal B. Chamberlain
Jean & Kevin Curtis
Bill & Dorothy Devoti
Dwight & Nancy Dellert
Michael & Betsy Ebenstein
Peter & Patricia Elsbach
Francine Eget
Michael Giulian
Gillian & Norman Hettinger
Peter & Patricia Jones
Athena & Dick Kimball
Mary McNeil
Christopher Nye
Katherine Ness & John James

Howard Mott
Richard & Laraine Novak
John O'Donnell
Elisabeth Paine
Peter & Aurora Pshenishny
Phyllis Pickert
Annette Pothul
Gillian Shallcross
Sigmund Spiegel
Robert & Carolyn Ullrich
Elsie West
Joyce & Ross Hawkins
Myron & Marcia Sheinberg
Jon Macclaren & Christopher Sink

THREE MORE WAYS TO SUPPORT THE SHEFFIELD TIMES YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

The *Sheffield Times* is provided free at distribution sites throughout Sheffield. It's only partly supported by advertising. When you make a donation, you help make future issues possible and you get the *Sheffield Times* in the mail. See the coupon on page 27.

☛ SUBMIT ARTICLES, NEWS ITEMS, PHOTOS OR ILLUSTRATIONS.

☛ TELL US ABOUT YOUR EVENTS.

☛ ADVERTISE—AND SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

Sheffield Times

P.O. Box 1339

Sheffield, MA 01257

E-mail: sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com

**July/August
issue deadline:
June 15**

GREENAGERS GO TO WORK AT SHEFFIELD FARM

Greenagers, a nonprofit organization dedicated to connect area youth and environmental work, works on projects around South County as well as holding monthly hikes in the area. Several trail-building and trail-cleaning projects are planned for the coming months, and the group is initiating a new program called Front Lawn Food, in which, volunteer youth, with help from Greenagers staff and advisers from local farms, design, install and help maintain small, organic vegetable gardens at residences around town.

Last winter, the group teamed up with Moon in the Pond Farm on Barnum St.

in Sheffield for two days of winter farm work in January and February. As a small, working farm focusing on heritage-breed meat and organic vegetables, Moon in the Pond offered a unique setting for local youth volunteers to give their time.

On the first day, we focused on how animal power can assist in the maintenance of a woodlot and the production of firewood. Rich Ciotola and his team of steers (Lucas and Larson) did the heavy work of dragging logs out of the woods and skidding them to the firewood station. Greenagers volunteers assisted in all aspects, including hitching the chain to the

yoke, rolling logs onto the sled, dragging and burning brush and splitting and stacking firewood. Rich also allowed each youth volunteer drive the team for a stretch.

On the second day, volunteers returned to help with the conversion of a few better logs into lumber for new ox sleds and yokes. We used a portable sawmill to mill some cherry and hickory for the

sled and yokes, and we milled three pine logs for boards to repair the barn door. Volunteers learned how to saw, sticker and stack lumber for proper drying and future use.

Moon in the Pond provided hearty farm-raised lunches for the volunteers each day. Over lunch, Dominic Palumbo and his farm apprentices, Josh and Brianna, offered kernels of farm wisdom as the volunteers chowed down on duck eggs, pork and other farm offerings. Paul Paisley even showed up with fresh milk for all.

Over 100 volunteer hours were contributed between the two days with students from both Monument Mountain and Mount Everett contributing their time. Many thanks to the volunteers and to Moon in the Pond Farm.

The Greenagers Youth Advisory Board meets on the first Monday of every month, 6 to 7 or 7:15pm. The Youth Board determines which projects Greenagers will pursue, dreams up events, tosses around ideas, and ensures a good time is had by all and is open to all interested youth. The (fairly loose) agenda for each meeting is emailed and posted on the website. Snacks are provided.

For more information on the two organizations, go to www.mooninthepond.com and www.greenagers.org.

— Will Conklin
Director, Greenagers



Left to right: Max Maryshchuk, Sierra Wilson, Eli Cook, Dominic Palumbo, Rich Ciatola. Not pictured: Ben Fish, Sam Levin, teacher Cassie Urrichio, Robert Whitbeck and Howard Wilson.

WATER COMPANY, continued from page 1

a "meter pit," and from there up to two reservoirs, which look like swimming pools with a shed on top.

The proposed tank would take the place of the reservoirs. "The reservoirs are original, more than 100 years old," said Bartholomew. "So are the pipes that lead up there from the meter pit. When we add the tank, we can stop using a mile of pipe that was probably laid across pasture when the company started up. It's now under a pond created by a beaver dam."

Until last summer, the Sheffield Water Co. also drew from several springs on Water Farm Rd., but the springs and one of the reservoirs had to be shut down after routine water-quality tests showed the company's supply had developed an unacceptable total coliform count, from decaying leaves and ground organisms

washed into the system by heavy rains. The company had to treat its water with chlorine until the source of the contamination was identified.

The company won't use the springs again. The two wells go 300 feet into the aquifer under the town and have been problem-free since they were drilled years ago.

The forced closure of the reservoir reduced the amount of water able to be stored, one reason the new tank is needed.

The forced closure of the springs has added to another problem the company faces. Now, it pumps 180,000 gallons a day, but sends only 100,000 gallons a day into the system. The remainder of the water overflows at the reservoirs and then washes back downstream. As part of a state-wide water-conservation plan, the Dept. of Environmental Protection



The water company's well off Maple Ave. has mandated that by 2017 such "unaccounted" water be only 10 percent of the total amount of water that is pumped. The proposed tank will help the company meet that goal.

Last fall, Stephanie Blumenthal and other residents concerned about plastic water bottles raised the question of installing drinking fountains on the town green and at the Town Park. The Sheffield Water Co. offered to install fountains at both locations. The company already supplies water to taps there for free.

—Andrea Scott

FARMERS MARKET STARTS 10TH SEASON

The Sheffield Farmers Market will launch its 10th Anniversary season with a celebration Fri., May 21, 3:30 to 6:30pm, at Old Parish Church on Route 7. Founded a decade ago by a handful of Sheffield farmers at a time when the idea of local food was relatively unknown, this year's market will be a showcase of the area's small farms, artisanal food producers,

SHOW: 'FRIENDS, ARTISTS & SPECIAL PLACES'

Ruth Kolbert, who has a studio in Sheffield, will have a one-person show at the Front St. Gallery in Housatonic from May 19 to June 13. Most of the paintings are large portraits of people in the creative arts or in her life.

A reception will take place on Sat., May 29, from 2 to 5pm. The Front St. Gallery is open Friday 1-5pm and Saturday and Sunday 12-5pm, or by appointment: 229-0380.

and craftsmen. Each Friday from May to October, the public is invited to celebrate the bounty of local farms, eat fresh, seasonal foods, and enjoy the company of friends and neighbors.

Market vendors this season include Allie's Acres, Berkshire Mountain Bakery, Equinox Farm, Farm Girl Farm, Farm House Bakers, Foggy River Farm, Fox Hill Farm, Good Dogs Farm, Happy Chocolates, Hawk Dance Farm, Howden Farm, Moon in the Pond Farm and the Knife Guy. In addition, each market will feature local non-profits, civic organizations and artists.

Market manager Billie Best says, "We're trying to have a merchandise mix this year that enables shoppers to buy everything they need for breakfast, lunch, and dinner at the market. We'll have vegetables and fruits, salad greens and herbs, meat, cheese and eggs, grass-fed beef, hot dogs, fresh baked breads, foccacia and cookies, des-

DEWEY HALL FOLK SERIES

On June 5 Robin O'Herin, finalist in the 2009 Telluride Blues Competition, will play traditional pre-war delta and country blues and gospel. Her concerts are warm, affirming experiences she shares with the audience: www.robinoherin.com

The Folk Series takes place at Dewey Hall, 91 Main St. in Sheffield, the first Saturday of each month. Shows are at 7:30 on the first Saturday of each month. Dewey Hall is a lovely architectural space with excellent acoustics. Tables are set with checkered table cloths and candles. Light refreshments are available. The suggested donation is \$10.

serts, sauces, soups and dips, cut flowers, seedlings and potted plants, artisanal chocolates and hand-crafted gifts."

The Sheffield Farmers Market operates Fridays, May 21 to Oct. 8, 3:30 to 6:30pm, rain or shine, in the parking lot of Old Parish Church, with parking in the Town Hall parking lot. For more information see the web site: www.thesheffieldfarmersmarket.com.



The Ashley House

117 COOPER HILL ROAD, ASHLEY FALLS
tel 413.229.8600 ■ www.thetrustees.org

A SITE ON THE AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL



Open Saturday & Sunday,
May 29 — October 10 ■ 12NOON — 4PM

250 years ago, Colonel John Ashley owned 3,000 acres, farms, mills, — and slaves. Learn how Elizabeth Freeman sued for her own freedom — and won. Adult \$5. Children, Trustees members, and Sheffield residents: FREE.

A PROPERTY OF THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS

HOW WE CAME TO SHEFFIELD: The Best Stories Begin (and End) with Love

The lawn at the house in the southern part of Sheffield stretches out bright and green beyond the screened porch to a patch of bushes and beyond that to some low growing trees and beyond that to the purple slopes of Mt. Everett. It is for this, they say, this vista, and the dancing daffodils in their yellow skirts, and the welcoming walls of the old farmhouse that they came to be here in Sheffield. That, and love. "So yes," says Leslie Wolf in her lilting Dutch accent, "here we are, Irving and I, in love with each other, in love with a house."



Irving and Leslie at home in Sheffield

For Leslie, it is a new beginning. "I was working as an art curator at a bank in Amsterdam. I loved my job but I had reached the age when one questions oneself," she says, "when one asks, 'what am I doing this for, and what should I be doing with the rest of my life?'"

She did what many of us do when confronted with such self-assessing uncertainties—she started sorting through her belongings. "In doing so, I found a box with letters, love letters from a man I met when I was 22. I opened the box and started reading. And, oh! I remembered that man, that love. But I had let him go."

That man was Irving Slavid, who had sat next to her on a plane from London 27 years before, who had fallen in love with her too.

Irving hadn't been entirely oblivious of Leslie's whereabouts all that time. Years later, knowing he would be in Amsterdam on business, Irving contacted Leslie's brother, asking for Leslie's email address.

"But of course, I did not have one. I was not twenty-first century yet," laughs Leslie. "I relayed an invitation, 'Don't talk to me in an email. Come to Amsterdam and talk in person!' We traded letters for a few months and then one day he knocked on my door. And when I saw him there, and he saw me? Well! We fell in love all over again."

Deciding that being together was what they wanted most, they began to house hunt. They found a perfect house in Scotland (Irving has roots there), but their bid was not accepted. They turned then to the United States. Irving had

lived for some years in Colebrook, CT. He also was familiar with the Berkshires. As a stone restoration expert, he'd been responsible for repairing the damaged headstones after a tornado tore through a Great Barrington cemetery in 1995.

"I knew and liked Sheffield," says Irving, "so we started looking for houses in the area. We'd just about given up when we were shown this one. I've lived in 11 different houses. This one felt like home."

It is here to this home that Irving will return from a trip in June

to American Samoa where he will assist in restoring cemetery headstones damaged in a tsunami. It is here to this home he will return from Kentucky where he has been asked to help restore the Woolridge Monuments, 18 life-sized statues surrounding the tomb of Colonel Henry Wooldridge of Mayfield, KY, some of which were damaged by a fallen tree as the result of an ice storm.

And Leslie? She resigned her job as art curator and is planning a year of "refreshment, a year of relaxing and learning about what I am to do next. I will learn this house, learn to garden, read Irving's letters again one by one."

And you can be sure it will all be done with love.

—Pauline Clarke

 Webster
Ingersoll

FINE GARDENS • STONWORK • TREE CARE
PLANT HEALTH CARE

"Our apple trees look so much better
than they did last year!"
~ E.R., Stockbridge, MA

Now is the Time to....

- Prune Fruit Trees
- Inspect Trees and Shrubs for Diseases and Overwintering Pests
- Identify and Remove Woody Invasive Species
- Plan Your 2010 Organic Lawn Care Program
- Design and Plan Spring Landscape Projects of all sizes!

413-229-8124

www.WebsterIngersoll.com



DOMINICK & DOMINICK LLC

Pamela Bloodworth

Financial Advisor
Investments

150 E. 52ND STREET
3RD FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10022
pbloodworth@dominickanddominick.com
413 229 3530

212 558 8820
800 221 2869
212 750 6475 FAX
BY APP'T FRIDAYS

NEWS FROM MT. EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL

The Jazz Band Takes A Trip

On their recent adventure to New York City, Mt. Everett's Jazz Band had the thrill of meeting legendary trumpet player Wynton Marsalis. Marsalis holds the distinction of being the only artist to ever win Grammy Awards in both the jazz and classical categories and being the only artist to win Grammy Awards in five consecutive years.

On Feb. 10, Jazz Band students managed to get to the train in Wassaic despite the day's snow. They took the subway to their hotel, then walked to Jazz at Lincoln Center, which is in the Time Warner building on Columbus Circle. There they waited two hours for the Wynton Marsalis Jazz Band practice to begin. But because of the snow, the rehearsal was postponed until the next day. Disappointed but still eager, the students set out to explore the city.

Back at the jazz center the next day,

the students got to sit behind the band to listen and learn how the musicians interacted to make their music. The students sat transfixed for two hours, amazed by what they were hearing. The highlight of the trip came later that night when the students sat behind the band during a performance in the Rose Theater, one of the venues at the center.

The trip to New York taught the band the importance of working together. It also gave them a glimpse into a possible future that they could achieve with hard work and dedication. —Sarah Peppe

Fight Club

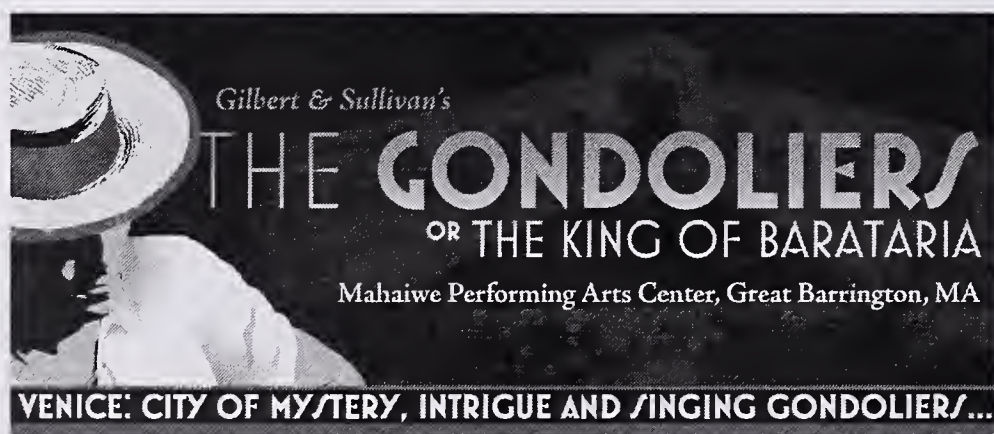
When students gather for a morning meeting in the auditorium, we usually get caught up on the routine happenings around Mount Everett: sports events, play schedules, recognition of accomplishments, etc. But on Feb. 11, English teacher Annie Christensen told her 11th grade

English students that author Chuck Palahniuk had sent each of her students signed copies of one of his novels. Most received *Fight Club*, the rest *Stranger Than Fiction*. Apparently a chocoholic, he also included 10 boxes of Russell Stover chocolates for the classes to share.

When Mrs. Christensen first introduced the idea of reading *Fight Club*, some administrators were afraid that the book was too risqué for students to read. The book was approved on the grounds that it was a way to get students more interested in literature. Mrs. C was surprised and delighted when Palahniuk responded to her query and expressed genuine interest in our school and its students. Referring to their email correspondence, she says Palahniuk is "super nice and unbelievably funny."

In every book he donated, Palahniuk wrote a short personalized message. To junior Celina Sinico he wrote, "To

The Sheffield & Egremont Land Trusts
present
a Blue Hill Troupe, Ltd. production
of



ONE NIGHT ONLY!

SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 2010 AT 8PM

to benefit

the Sheffield-Egremont Corridor Project

"Saving an Iconic Berkshire Landscape"

GALA TICKET PACKAGES WITH PRE-SHOW DINNER AVAILABLE

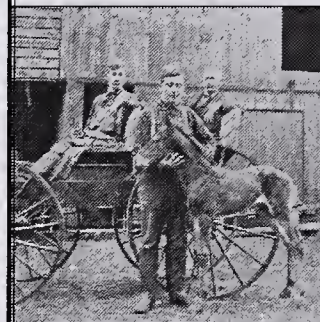
Regular seating \$35/\$50/\$75

For tickets and information:



Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center
14 Castle St., Gt. Barrington, MA 01230
(413) 528-0100 • www.mahaiwe.org

VOICES FROM THE FIELDS: THE FAMILY FARMS OF SHEFFIELD



CELEBRATING
& DOCUMENTING
SHEFFIELD'S
FAMILY FARMS
FROM YESTERDAY
TO TODAY

EXHIBIT
HOURS:

FRIDAY
3:30-7 PM,
SATURDAY,
10-2 PM &
SUNDAY
11-3 PM



Saturday, May 1—Sunday, June 6

Reception: Saturday, May 8, 2-5 pm

EXHIBIT IN THE OLD STONE STORE

SAVE THE DATE!

SHEFFIELD LAND TRUST

ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 26

FOR INFORMATION, CALL 229-0234 OR VISIT

WWW.SHEFFIELDLAND.ORG

Celina—You can be happy right now.” Samantha Marks’ copy says “To Sam—You are the king of the universe.” Students were excited to receive the books and appreciated Palahniuk’s special effort to personalize every one of them.

On May 5, 10 lucky students will have the chance to go hear Palahniuk speak at Harvard University and meet him in person. Attendees will be chosen based on an essay they write on the topic of why they want to meet him. Even those who don’t get to go still have their autographed books to enjoy—and the memory of a unique high school reading project.

—Bethany Pothul

School Blood Drive

Imagine how many lives might be lost if there weren’t people who donate blood. For the last five years, Mt. Everett’s Interact Club has made it easy to be one of those

A single pint of donated blood can save as many as three lives. To learn more about how to donate, visit www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-448-3543 (1-800-GIVE-LIFE).

generous people with its on-site blood drive, held through the Red Cross. On March 8, 65 people donated blood, all of it to provide relief to the people of Haiti.

Donors had the option of making an appointment or just walking in and waiting their turn. The first step was to have a finger pricked to make sure the blood was useable. Then donors took a short survey on where they have been and what they have done recently, again, to ensure the quality of their blood. If everything checked out, a catheter was inserted in a vein in their arm and they had to lie down for 10 to 15 minutes while a pint of blood was drawn. Afterward donors had to wait 10 minutes to make sure they did not feel too faint to function. During this time they were treated to cookies, ginger ale and juice.

The overall process took about 45 minutes from start to finish. Interact faculty advisor and school adjustment counselor Brenda Ullrich said, “There were no lines. No one had to wait too long.” She also noted that without the time and effort volunteered by the students in Interact, this blood drive would not be possible. —Samantha Corban

TIPS FROM THE COBBLE

It’s mowing season again. Here are tips from The Trustees of the Reservations’ ecologist Julie Richburg on how to mow so it’s kind to wildlife.

Begin at the center of the field, and work in circles spiraling outward so turtles and other creatures can escape..

Watch for nesting bobolinks beginning in May. If you spot their “reverse tuxedo” colors and hear their jingling call, consider leaving some edges or strips unmowed as nesting areas. If you delay the first mowing until July 15, they will have had a chance to raise their first brood.

Postponing mowing until August 1 allows other grassland nesting birds a chance to fledge a second brood. If possible, prevent dogs from running free through un-mowed areas where birds are nesting on the ground.

For butterflies, not mowing until fall or mowing different sections of the field in alternate years will leave some flowers and host plants during the growing season, and also be sufficient to keep the field open.

—Tammi Coffin

10th
Anniversary
Celebration May 21st



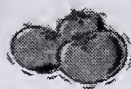
The Sheffield Farmers Market

Allie's Acres • Berkshire Mountain Bakery
Equinox Farm • Farm Girl Farm • Farm House Bakers
Foggy River Farm • Fox Hill Farm • Good Dogs Farm
Happy Chocolates • Hawk Dance Farm • Howden Farm
Moon in the Pond Farm • The Knife Guy

Vegetables & fruits
Salad greens & herbs
Meat, grass-fed beef, cheese & eggs
Cut flowers, seedlings & potted plants
Fresh baked breads, foccacia & cookies
Desserts, sauces, soups & dips
Artisanal chocolates
Hand-crafted gifts



Fridays 3:30 to 6:30 pm



May 21 to October 8

RAIN or SHINE



Old Parish Church parking lot, Main St - Rte 7
www.thesheffieldfarmersmarket.com

SHEFFIELD'S OLDEST RESIDENT HONORED

On April 2, Felecie Joyce, Sheffield's Town Clerk, and Julie Hannum, Selectman, presented Minnie Rice Golden with a citation from the Town of Sheffield in honor of her 101st birthday. Said Julie, "Her spirit and enthusiasm for life is remarkable! She was song leader and quite the life of the party!"

Minnie is the first Sheffield resident that town records show has reached 100 years of age. Hannum and the Board of Selectmen thanked Felecie for the suggestion to recognize Sheffield's centenarians.

Minnie was born in Sharon, CT, and has lived in Sheffield for more than 75 years. In a 2006 interview with the Sheffield Times, she remembered a town where farmers took their cans of milk in horse-drawn wagons to a building on the railroad tracks



Celebrating Minnie: Felecie Joyce, Julie Hannum, and family members: Peter Frye, Andre Golden, Margaret Mansfield and Stephanie Wright.

where the train stopped each day and she had to walk to public pumps, located in the town cemetery, for enough water to do the laundry.

RAFFLE SURPRISE AT PASTA DINNER

Historical Society's pasta dinner on April 17 held a 50/50 raffle that was advertised to support the Kiwanis Food Drive. Marcia Brolli, past president of the Society and the Director of the Sheffield Food Pantry, presented \$250 to Patricia Hardisty, president of the Kiwanis Club of Sheffield, in front of the bus the Kiwanis stuffed with community food donations (see page 19 for more on "Stuff the Bus"). The Kiwanis in turn will split the \$250 between the Sheffield Food Pantry and food programs in Great Barrington.

To its surprise and delight, the Historical Society was also itself a winner. State Representative Daniel Bosley, from northern Berkshire County, won the 50/50 raffle, and he donated the \$250 back to the Society. Representative Bosley, who was doing some early campaigning for Berkshire County Sheriff, had attended the pasta dinner with his wife before going on to the Friends of the Senior Center's big band dance.

—Rene Wood

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

ASHLEY FALLS

Greenwoods Community Church (non-denominational), 355 Clayton Rd. 229-8560; parsonage (860) 824-7442. Sunday: 9:30am Sunday School (ages 3-adult); 10:30am Worship Service, nursery care provided. Rev. Edward M. Eastman Jr., Pastor

Trinity Methodist (United Methodist), 1156 Ashley Falls Rd. 229-2712. Sunday: 9am Service. Betty LeGeyt, Pastor

NORTH EGREMONT

North Egremont Baptist, Egremont Plain Rd. (Rt. 71) 528-6066. Sunday: 10am Worship; Monday: 6pm Bible Study. Rev. Stephen Vannah, Pastor

GREAT BARRINGTON

Congregation Ahavath Shalom (reconstructionist), North St. 528-4197. Friday, 8pm & Saturday, 10am. Services not held every week. Schedules are updated on answering machine

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Rd. 528-6378. Friday: 7:30pm Shabbat Service. Saturday: 10am Shabbat service & Torah study. Rabbi Deborah Zecher, Associate Rabbi Ari Rosenberg

SHEFFIELD

Christ Church Episcopal & Trinity Lutheran, 180 Main St. 229-8811. Sunday: 8am & 10am Holy Eucharist; 10am Sunday School & child care; Thursday: 10am Holy Eucharist & Healing. Rev. Anne Ryder

Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, Route 7 & Kellogg Rd. 229-8649. The public is welcome.

Old Parish (United Church of Christ), 125 Main St. 229-8173. Sunday: 10am Worship, Sunday School, 10am. Rev. Jill Graham, Pastor

Our Lady of the Valley (Catholic), Maple Ave. 229-3028. Saturday: 4:00pm Mass; Sunday: Sheffield 7:30am, 9am Masses; Mill River 10:30 Mass. Rev. Bruce Teague

Sheffield Chapel (non-denominational), 1970 N. Main St. 528-2911, www.sheffieldchapel.org. Sunday: 10:45am Worship, 9:30am Sunday School for all ages. Wed.: Group Prayer Time 7pm. Pastor: Corey McLaughlin

Dawn O'Neil's Family Child Care



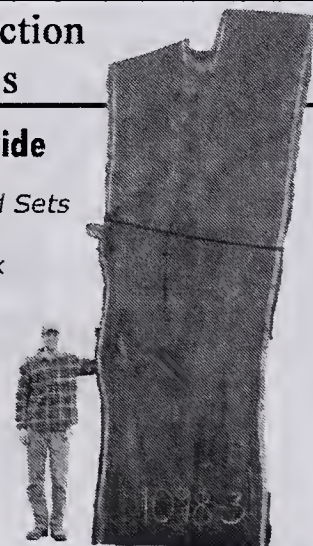
1701 Hewins Street
Ashley Falls, MA 01222
(413) 229-8557

New England's Largest Selection of Unique Lumber and Burls

Specializing in Slabs up to 7' wide

Exotic Lumber	Bookmatched Sets
Figured Lumber	Mantels
Natural Edge Slabs	Turning Stock
Quartersawn Lumber	Tonewood
Wide Pine Flooring	Burls

Berkshire Products, Inc.
884 Ashley Falls Rd, Sheffield, MA
413-229-7919
www.BerkshireProducts.com
M-F 8:00 - 4:30; Sat 8:00-Noon



LIBRARY NEWS

Children's book sale. The Bushnell-Sage Library will be holding its annual children's book sale on Sat., June 26, from 11am to 2pm. Lots of good reads will be for sale!

The Friends welcome Friends. The Friends of the Sheffield Bushnell-Sage Library is a nonprofit group that supports Library programs financially and through various community activities, such as the

popular Local Author's Day.

In recent years, the Friends have paid to upgrade the Library's kitchen and air-conditioning and to expand the parking lot. The group also supplements the book-acquisition budget provided by the town. This spring the Friends are paying to pave the sunken area just outside the program room in the back of the library. They plan to plant decorative grasses on the lawn that slopes down to the area.

The Friends welcome any interested residents to join. A monthly meeting is held on the second Saturday of the month at 9am in the Library, and anyone interested in joining is welcome to attend.

To enhance the Library's collection, and to provide sus-



THE BUSHNELL-SAGE LIBRARY

JUST OFF ROUTE 7 IN SHEFFIELD 413-229-7004

HOURS: TUES.-THURS. 10-5; FRI. 10-8;

SAT. 10-5, SUN 2-5; MON. CLOSED

tenance to the annual book sale, held in September, the Friends welcome book, CD and DVD donations year-round. Donated materials are screened for inclusion either in the library collection or the book sales directly supporting library programs. Donors receive a summary confirmation letter for tax purposes in January.

Financial support is also always warmly welcomed. Please call 229-7003 for book donations, or mail contributions to: The Friends of the Bushnell-Sage Library, P.O. Box 487, Sheffield, MA 01257.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

Stories. Jessica's storytime for toddlers takes place every Thursday at 10am. Please join us in the children's area.

Summer camp. The Library's summer camp will be held Monday through Friday, July 12 to 16. From 9:30am to 12 noon, it will be camp time for children entering first and second grades. From 12:30 to 3pm, it's time for children entering third through fifth grades. Please register at the front desk.



SHEFFIELD POTTERY

Expect the Unexpected.

Contemporary American Art Pottery
for Home, the Garden and the Table...

Order Online at
www.AmericanMadePottery.com
Toll-Free 888.774-2529

US Route 7 North Main St. Sheffield MA 01257
413 229-7700 x14

SENIOR CENTER NEWS

Salco Construction, a firm based in Pittsfield with 20 years experience, has been awarded the general contracting bid for the building of our new Senior Center. We hope construction will begin in May.

Support has continued to build from the Friends of the Sheffield Senior Center. The Big Band Dance and Fundraiser of April 17 was attended and supported by many. (See a photo on page 17.)

May and June promise to be busy months, the center at Dewey Hall now having again added Fridays to its open hours (now Mon-Fri, 9-2:30). If you are a senior or family member, please feel free to call or stop by with any questions, needed help, or a need to just get out of the house for exercise, a movie or a cup of coffee. We are at your service and would love to meet you!

Potluck lunch. The Third Thursday Lunch on May 20 will continue with a "Double Header" of information and

entertainment. After enjoying a potluck lunch, Paul Edelman, director of South Berkshire District Department of Veteran's Services, will be sharing information on services to veterans and their families. Following that, a rousing sing-a-long of patriotic songs will help work off that good food. Bring your favorite dish and your favorite song.

Wii Bowling. During May, bowlers from our center will take on bowlers from Great Barrington's Claire Teague center in Wii bowling. The action will take place at both Senior Centers.

Recognition. On June 3, volunteers will be recognized at a lunch at Egremont Country Club, funded by the Council on Aging's Formula Grant from the Commonwealth.

Picnic. Plans are in the works for a picnic later in June in collaboration with Great Barrington and other nearby towns.

The main focus of the Senior Center

PAINT AND OIL RECYCLING

Sheffield residents can recycle old oil paint, stains, paint thinners, turpentine and waste motor oil on Sat., May 8, from 9 to 11:30am, at the Great Barrington Recycling Center.

Latex paint is not accepted at this event. Empty or dried-up cans of latex or oil-based paint can be disposed with the regular trash. Usable paint can be given away through freecycle.org or some non-profits.

To register, call Jamie at the Center for Ecological Technology at 413-445-4556 ext. 10 or 30, email us jamiec@cetonline.org or visit www.cetonline.org.

is in fulfilling the mission: "to facilitate seniors' ability to live independently and enjoy a high quality of life...to provide life-enriching activities, relevant information on issues that affect them and assistance in obtaining services." Give a call with ideas and thoughts on your Senior Center!

—John-Arthur Miller, Director
Sheffield Council on Aging & Senior Center

LUNCH
DINNER

VILLAGE ON THE GREEN

113 Main Street • Sheffield, MA • (413) 229-7500

NOW
SERVING
BEER &
WINE

★ Ask about platters for meetings and events—big or small ★

Monday

❖ Get spaghetti with sausage or meatballs with hot bread

Dine in \$4.95
Dine out \$5.95

ALL DAY

Tuesday & Wednesday

❖ Get 2 medium cheese pizzas

\$14.95
Dine in or out

ALL DAY

Thursday

❖ Chicken parmesan with hot bread

Dine in \$6.95
Dine out \$7.95

ALL DAY

ALSO SERVING:

- Burgers
- Fresh salads
- Wraps
- Fried seafood
- Specialty sandwiches
- Hot/cold sandwiches
- Reubens
- Grinders
- Pasta dinners
- Casseroles
- Pizzas/calzones
- Sheet pizza

SUNDAY – THURSDAY 11AM – 9PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY 11AM – 10PM

FROM THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

Feb. 1—Corey Chapman has applied for a common victualler's license for a new business, Chapman Chowdah House, to be located at 223 Main St. *[at the corner of Miller Ave]*. Discussion ensued regarding the hours of operation. The Board voted to approve the license, and Selectman Rene Wood moved to update the license application form to include the days and hours of operation, a motion that carried unanimously.

The Board designated Selectman Wood as its representative for the Western Massachusetts Broadband Forum to be held in Northampton on Feb. 3.

Wood distributed a document explaining the Recovery Zone Facility Bond Program, which assists businesses with funding from the stimulus bill. She moved to put this information on the Town website, to issue a press release and to create posters that can be displayed throughout town. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Wood updated the Board on the status of the Wind Siting Reform legislation. The Board authorized her to contact state senators expressing opposition to the measure and in support of the amendments noted in the Board's December 7, 2009 letter.

Selectmen Hannum and Wood attended the Massachusetts Municipal Association annual conference in Boston and gave an overview of the conference, which focused on financial and budgetary issues.

Town Administrator Joe Kellogg noted that, per the new state requirements for posting meetings, the agenda for the Selectmen's meetings will be posted on Thursdays prior to the Monday meetings. The bulletin board outside Town Hall will be enlarged and become the official board in July, since the new rules say the board must be accessible at all times.

Administrator Kellogg said he received a letter from Marcia Brolli for the Sheffield Food Assistance Program stating the number of families in need of assistance has increased and the program is in need of donations.

He noted that the IRS has reduced the mileage reimbursement to \$.50 per mile. The Board voted several years ago that the

Town would adopt the IRS rate each year.

Administrator Kellogg stated that the Solid Waste Task Force held its last meeting on January 20 and could not agree on a single report. Discussion ensued. *[See story on page 13.]*

Feb. 10—The Board conferred on hiring an office support person and decided to meet with various committee heads to discuss support needs and revisit this proposal for FY2012 [which starts June 1, 2011]. Selectman Wood suggested looking at how department workloads can be automated.

The Board discussed which items should be submitted for expense reimbursement. Selectman Wood pointed out that the percentage of maintenance fees charged for the State Treasurer's Deferred Compensation program is extremely high. The Board decided to have Administrator Kellogg and Selectman Wood draft a letter to our legislative representatives, the State Treasurer and Governor Deval Patrick expressing concern over the maintenance fees.

Administrator Kellogg briefly discussed the budget that he is presenting to the Finance Committee tonight. Chairman David Macy noted that the Board is directing Kellogg to work only on these projects until after the Annual Town Meeting: Highway Garage, Senior Center, Town Meeting Warrant, and FY 2011 Budget.

Feb. 22—The Board held a public hearing to consider whether there should be multiple tax rates for FY2010. Principal Assessor Tammy Blackwell explained to the Board the options and recommended a single tax rate. The Town's total valuation is \$620,937,076, with \$7,587,851.07 to be raised on the property tax levy. The tax rate would be \$12.22 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation with a single tax rate. The excess levy capacity is \$73,859.93. There were no comments from the public and the hearing was closed. The Board decided to go with a single tax rate.

March 1—The Board appointed Hope Swanson and Judith Steindler to the Com-

mission on Disabilities and Wray Gunn as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, per their written requests.

The Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association has sent its annual agreement to provide health services to Town residents for \$3,096, the same amount as last year. The Board voted to renew the agreement and invited the association to a meeting to update the Board on the services it provides.

The Board voted to hire Melanson Heath and Co. to do the FY10 audit for \$12,000.

Selectman Wood gave the Board an overview of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute forum she attended. The institute is applying for federal stimulus funds to pay for bringing broadband to citizens that do not currently have access. The Board decided to send a letter of support for the grant application to the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Administrator Kellogg noted that the Town recently received \$3,237.82 from the Springfield MRF as a recycling rebate. The Town receives \$15.67 per ton for the disposal of recyclable materials.

He noted that a public hearing will be held on March 18 regarding upgrades to the Sheffield Water Company system required by the state. *[See story on page 1.]*

Candice Parsons, a resident, questioned the Board about Administrator Kellogg's support of the school budget. Chairman Macy stated that Administrator Kellogg supported the budget because it was within the 2½ percent levy limit and would not require an override vote. Parsons expressed concern that residents below the median income would not be able to afford tax increases.

Selectman Hannum thanked the Highway Dept. for the outstanding job it is doing during the bad weather.

March 1 Working Meeting—The Board and the Town Administrator met with members of the Finance Committee—David J. Steindler (Chair), John James and Colin Smith—and Christine Regan, Business Administrator for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, to review proposed changes to the district's regional

Continued on page 12

agreement among the five towns served by the school. Regan handed out a spreadsheet with different scenarios of what each town could expect in assessments over the next few years based on the method being proposed in a new agreement. The intention is to include the agreement on the towns' warrants this spring.

March 3 Working Meeting—The Board discussed the proposed new regional school agreement. It was the consensus of the Board to seek the Finance Committee's recommendation on the financial aspects.

March 15—The Board appointed Malcolm McCain as a probationary member of the Fire Dept. as recommended by Chief Boardman. Hope Swanson resigned from the Commission on Disabilities.

The Board approved a curb cut, approved by the Police Chief and Highway Superintendent, for 1223 County Rd. Selectman Wood noted that in the future all curb cuts should have a sketch of the curb cut on the application.

James M. Larkin, chairman of the Agricultural Commission, distributed a proposal to eliminate the excise tax for farm animals and machinery, as allowed by recent legislation. Discussion ensued regarding the impact of this proposal. The Agricultural Commission will provide the Board with more information from the Department of Revenue before any action is taken.

The Board voted to join in the Southern Berkshire Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program.

Selectman Hannum encouraged residents to clean up the roadsides in their neighborhoods.

Pauline Schumann from the Friends of the Senior Center announced a fund raiser for the new Senior Center on April 17. Town Clerk Felecie Joyce stated that the Boy Scouts will hold a rabies clinic on March 27 in the Town Hall parking area. The Town Clerk's office will be open during the clinic for licensing.

March 24—The Board reviewed two proposed changes to the Zoning Bylaws. The first would prevent re-establishment of nonconforming uses after two years of abandonment. The second would replace the existing Section 8.2 Flood Hazard Zone with a new Flood Plain Overlay District. The Board voted to refer the proposed amendments to the Planning Board.

Administrator Kellogg noted that the grant agreement for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources was received. The Board voted to authorize Kellogg to sign the contract and all related documents.

Administrator Kellogg provided the Board with a brief report on the March 18 hearing held by the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities regarding the request of the Sheffield Water Company to raise rates.

March 29—The Annual Town Meeting warrant was reviewed. Budget items discussed included the amount budgeted for hydrants (it will increase) and the Town

COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

Sheffield will host a composting workshop on Sat., May 22, at 2pm at the Library, presented by the Center for Ecological Technology.

Clerk historic records restoration.

The School Committee will vote on March 30 on the new proposed regional agreement. Towns will be required to present the agreement as a paper ballot question at the Annual Town meeting.

Administrator Kellogg explained several articles. Article 27, which proposed a new leash law, was discussed. Selectman Wood will review the proposed law and submit any changes for the Board to review. Discussion ensued regarding Article 28, which would allow the Board to join with other municipalities to discuss broadband issues.

Selectman Wood stated that she would like to have each article explained at the Town Meeting. Administrator Kellogg offered to give a brief explanation before the vote on each article, which the Board endorsed. The sound system for the Annual Town Meeting was discussed.

The Board decided to meet with Senior Center Director, John-Arthur Miller, to discuss his correspondence regarding the future of the Senior Center on April 5.

Selectmen Wood stated that she would like to set a Board policy on responding to correspondence addressed to the Board of Selectmen. Discussion ensued.

The Board discussed the school district's proposed regional agreement. It was the consensus of the Board that Selectman Wood would submit a copy with the Board's comments and concerns to Administrator Kellogg and he would get them to the School Committee tomorrow. The Board agreed to accept Superintendent Mike Singleton's offer to keep the Board updated on school issues.

A Financial Information Session has been scheduled for April 26.

The Board also discussed the report by Jeff Dougan of the Massachusetts Office on Disability regarding the site survey he conducted on March 18.

Selectman Wood stated that she is working on two letters, one regarding wind siting and one on health care plan design. She will have drafts ready for review later this week.

CARLSON PROPANE
 Division Of Carlson Heating & Air Conditioning
 HEATING SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE COUNTY FOR OVER 20 YEARS
 RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
 SALES SERVICE INSTALLATION
 AUTOMATIC DELIVERY
 HEAT • HOT WATER • GENERATOR
 COOKING • POOL HEATER
 (413) 229-3328 Or (800) 542-2422
 79 Pike Rd Sheffield

24 HOUR
EMERGENCY
SERVICE

VISA
MC
DISC
ATM

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

Between Feb. 15 and April 15, the Planning Board conducted the following business:

It accepted three Form A applications (approval not required to divide property).

David J. and Melissa M. Consolini, represented by Mark Reynolds and Jack Magnotti of Kelly, Granger and Parsons, a civil engineering firm, applied to divide property located on the north side of Water Farm Rd. into two, creating a 0.0798 acre non-buildable lot. The Board reminded the company to use the most current Form A, which can be found on the Sheffield Town website, and to submit a map with complete information.

Constance M. Cincotta, represented by Parsons of Kelly, Granger and Parsons, applied to divide her property into two, creating a separate, buildable lot next to the parcel currently containing a house. The property is located on the east side of Rote Hill Rd.

John M. Trierweiler, represented by Mike Parsons of Kelly, Granger and Parsons, applied to divide 7.897 acres located on the west side of County Rd. with sufficient frontage and sufficient acreage to be a buildable lot. The parcel is not surveyed. The tax map says that the total acreage is about 7 acres and shows the road around it, existing structures, frontage and setbacks. Board Member Peter Cherneff noted that Board rules require a survey. He stated that tax maps are not surveys; while this tax map indicates that the property to be 7.897 acres, a more accurate estimate would be about 17 acres. Parsons argued that he has shown a lot being divided and that is all that is required by the Form A rules. The Board discussed the need to clarify the criteria on the Form A application. Chris Tomich, the chair, Anthony Gulotta and David Smith, Sr., all signed the application's mylar. Peter Cherneff and Tim Fulco felt that they could not sign because the criteria for the application were not met.

In the discussion of the requirements for the Form A application, it was pointed out that if the Planning Board does not have a survey of the original lot then allowing the division of the property could bring the original lot out of compliance. On the other hand, Board members were concerned that other towns don't require a survey and our requirement puts a big burden on landowners in Sheffield. Tomich recommended that everybody read the Approval Not Required handbook and look at the case that Parsons believes is definitive. Cherneff referred to Sheffield by-laws regarding subdivisions, section 4.02. Tomich will get direction from Town Counsel on this question. Parsons said he will put a legend on the map that an ANR approval by the Planning Board does not mean it is buildable. He will also send everyone copies of the ANR handbook. The Board discussed whether it needs to accept Form A applications even when they do not have complete information. Members remembered that in the past Town Counsel Sally Bell advised that all applications must be accepted. Members felt that advising applicants when something is missing helps produce applications that don't have to be rejected later.

The Board discussed the fact that although Cherneff drafted an articulate letter in favor of posting decisions of the Building Inspector, which was sent to the Board of Selectmen, the Building Inspector himself is opposed to the idea and the Selectmen will not pursue it.

Tomich reviewed the idea that the Planning Board, the

SOLID WASTE TASK FORCE SUBMITS REPORTS

The Solid Waste Task Force, after four months' study of the problem of disposing of Sheffield's trash, could not agree on a single set of recommendations. They presented the Board of Selectmen with three reports at a meeting on April 8. The task force was set up following community objections to a proposed pay-as-you-throw system.

The chair of the task force, David Steindler, highlighted several recommendations that all agreed on: keep the transfer station open and accessible to residents; increase education on trash disposal, especially recycling; and stay with the Enterprise Fund method of funding operations, which treats the Transfer Station separately from the regular town budget.

The eight task force members were Bart Elsbach, Marcia Friedman, Fred Panitz, Ted Pitman, Greig Siedor, David Smith, Sr., David Steindler, and Peter Stiglin. At the final meeting, three of the eight favored a pay-as-you-throw system and four favored retaining the current sticker system.

The reports are posted on the Town's web site (www.sheffieldma.gov), under Recent Headlines on the home page.

Zoning Board of Appeals and the Conservation Commission should meet together at least once a year so that the members can understand each other's concerns and current work.

The last meeting for the Sign By-law Committee was March 3. Joe Kellogg, the Town Administrator, and Tom Carmody, the building inspector, have reviewed the Planning Board's draft of the revised sign bylaws and suggested many changes. Carmody is concerned that the proposed by-laws are too subjective and can be interpreted in many different ways. David West has also reviewed them and has some strong opinions. Rene Wood stated that she is concerned about allowing interior illumination of signs. There was discussion about the effects of sign lighting and ways to control them. The Board agreed that two public hearings would be necessary to address all the issues.

The Board decided that this draft of the Sign By-law might not get enough support to pass at the Town Meeting in May. All agreed with Tomich's recommendation to do more work on the revision with Carmody and Kellogg and to submit the final result at a December Special Town Meeting.

The Board discussed the special permit application by Lydon Development for a motor vehicle general repair business on Route 7 north of Campo de Fiori, with two signs larger than permitted by right. Possible conditions for the special permit included not allowing unregistered/uninsured cars to be visible from the road and the need to maintain a screen from the road of either plants or a fence. The Board voted unanimously to grant the application. [See also *Conservation Commission*, page 16.]

At a Public Hearing on the Special Permit Application of Four Corners LLC (Borestone) for light manufacturing and machining of wood, plastic and metal products on March 11, Anthony Gulotta substituted for the absent Timothy Fulco. David Brigham, the applicant, explained that the lot in question at the Sheffield Business Park is slightly over four acres and that the proposed business will be primarily a woodworking business with computer-directed tools and nine employees. He repeated that the Special Permit originally applied for in 2005 had lapsed and that he is reapplying for the same use under current bylaws. —Nadia Milleron, Planning Board secretary

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES SEMINAR DRAWS CROWD

"You have people who care about one another, you have people who are willing to work together for positive change, and your downtown is mainly flat. So you have a lot going for you already, with access," said Mary Makuc. Her talk kicked off the seminar titled "What can Sheffield's Commission on Disabilities do for you?" held on March 18 at Town Hall.

Some 45 people attended the meeting, including several Sheffield town employees, officials and local organizations. Others came from elsewhere in the County and as far away as Clarksburg, MA, just south of the Vermont border.

Makuc, who lives in Monterey, has been a disability rights' advocate since sustaining a spinal injury in 1983. She spoke from her own experience, describing ways to accommodate people with disabilities, to encourage the town and local businesses "to integrate people with disabilities into the fabric of the community."

Another speaker was Jeff Dougan, assistant director for community services for the Massachusetts Office on Disability in Boston. His office is ready to help people find services, and it can link people with AdLib, a local independent living center. "If you face discrimination in any way, we have advocates in our office that can help you through that process," he said. He explained the basics of the Americans with Disabilities Act, focusing on the parts of the law that relate to town government and private businesses that are open to the public. He also touched on the Massachusetts State Building Code and the role of a town's Commission on Disabilities.



Julie Hannum, representing Sheffield's Board of Selectmen, greets Mary Makuc, seminar speaker.

At the end of the presentations, representatives from various groups serving people with disabilities shared information about their missions. The Kiwanis and its Aktion Club, a service leadership club for adults living with disabilities, provided sandwiches and snacks.

The town's Commission was instituted in late 2009, and its to-do list is already packed with projects. It meets twice a month, at 4pm on the first and third Thursdays, and the public is welcome. Meetings are downstairs in Town Hall.

One of the proposed projects would install curb cuts, sidewalks and possibly a pedestrian crossing light on Rte 7, so people with wheelchairs and scooters would be able to travel easily and safely within the Town Center. Another is to build an accessible trail system. Also on the list: purchasing equipment to allow people who are hard of hearing or deaf to participate in town meetings; better access into and within Town Hall; revision of policies and regulations so the local ambulance service can transport stroke or serious trauma injuries directly to a critical care center; launching a networking website for Berkshire County; and establishing an ongoing educational seminar series.

In December, the Commission encouraged residents to display their street addresses so it is clearly visible from the road and suggested that people with disabilities notify the Police Dept. of residents in the home who have disabilities. These two actions help responders in emergency situations. The Commission has also been getting set up, including appointing officers, designing a logo and getting a web page on the Town website.

The March seminar was recorded by CTSB-TV, the community cable television station. Video recordings of the seminar may be purchased from the television station or borrowed from the Commission.

To contact Sheffield's Commission, email inquiries to Denise Rueger, chair, at deniserueger@roadrunner.com, or mail Rhonda LaBombard, Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, Town Hall, 21 Depot Square, Sheffield MA 01257, or call Rhonda at 229-7000 ext. 152.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Berkshire County Mosquito Control begins spray mounted application to control mosquitos on or about 6/1 (the same procedure as in the past). Adulticide applications by ground equipment are Mon- Fri, 6/1-9/15, 3-7am. Materials used are Anvil 10 + 10 & Duet. For information or application schedules & locations: (413) 447-9808, 7:30am-2pm or bcmcp@bcn.net, after 6/1.

The Completed Home

- ☐ Vinyl Siding
- ☐ Replacement Windows
- ☐ Seamless Gutters

Up to \$1,500 tax energy credit !!

860-824-5094

CANAAN, CT

PASTEL - WATERCOLOR-OIL PAINTINGS

By

Lois Van Cleef

Casa Mia Studio

Ashley Falls, Massachusetts

413/229-3355

POLICE DEPT. NEWS

Self-defense classes for women

The Sheffield Police Dept. has been giving RAD self-defense classes for women for several years. "RAD" stands for "Rape Aggression Defense" system, a nationally taught program. On March 4, 17 more women completed the five-night class. Officers from Sheffield instructing the class were Sherry Johnson, Eric Munson, Graham Frank and Jake Gonska, all certified instructors in the system.

The class is important for all women, and especially useful for those who are heading off to college in the fall. If you would like to participate in a RAD class, contact the Sheffield Police Dept. and leave your name and phone number. A class will be arranged once there are enough participants.

Kops & Kids 2010

Chief Jim McGarry has announced the dates for the Police Dept.'s annual Kops & Kids program at the Sheffield Town Park. The one-week program, which aims to build self esteem and trust as the students work in groups, will be held rain or shine starting July 19. It's free for participants.

The centerpiece of the program is a ropes challenge course that's facilitated by trained and certified police officers. The program starts with field games and moves to the low ropes and then the high ropes elements. There are also demonstrations of police work such as a police K-9 unit and emergency vehicle tours.

Would whoever took the wooden platforms from the Town Park please return them? They are part of the Police Dept.'s ropes course and are needed for the program.

The program is geared towards fifth graders, but will also accept students in the 4th or 6th grade. Fifth graders and first-timers are given preference.

Students from middle school and high school act as mentors. Groups of 10 to 12 students with two or three mentors and two police officers work together throughout the week. In addition to the Sheffield officers, the camp is facilitated by officers from the Great Barrington and Stockbridge departments. Applications are available at these departments.

Everyone can participate on the ropes course, regardless of physical ability or athletic experience. There are no failures on the ropes course. Each participant measures success by his or her own aspirations. If someone is afraid of heights, for example, simply climbing a foot or two up a tree can be a major accomplishment and a source of pride. If a participant chooses not to attempt an element, the decision is respected and other ways to participate are offered, including providing support through belaying, coaching or spotting.

Safety is of course paramount. The ropes course is inspected every year by experts, and state-of-the-art safety equipment and trained rescue personnel are on site.

Lunch is provided each day. On Friday, the last day of the program, family and friends are invited to join in for a picnic lunch and a demonstration of the high ropes.

The Kops & Kids camp has been a very successful program in Sheffield for more than 10 years. It's funded entirely through donations. If you'd like to contribute, contact the Town of Sheffield.

CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Sheffield Cultural Council is granted \$4,000 each year from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to help to fund projects and activities in our community and our schools.

In the past, the Council has funded many school programs, including "Sculpture Now" and science and history programs, and live performances by musicians, actors and lecturers for Sheffield in Celebration, the Bushnell-Sage Library, the Land Trust and the Historical Society. Most recently, it funded the Eagles band that played at the fundraiser for the new Senior Center.

The Council would like to learn more about what the Sheffield and Ashley Falls community would like us to fund. It will have a table at the Sheffield Farmer's Market, in the parking lot next to Old Parish Church, on Friday afternoons from May 21 to Oct. 8. Stop by for information about the Council, how to apply for a grant, and to pick up information about other organizations and events in our town.

The Council's motto is "Helping to fund culture, history, arts and humanities in our community." Council members include Trudy Weaver Miller, chair, Anne Dunn, Amber Spring, Steven Hyer, David Reed, Sally Cook and James Foster. New members are always welcome.

You can also contact the Council directly: The Sheffield Cultural Council, c/o Town Hall, 21 Depot Street, P.O. Box 325, Sheffield, MA 01257. Or you can phone or email the chair: 413-441-6446, trudyweavermiller@msn.com.

—Trudy Weaver Miller, chair

THE SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY



19th Century Correspondence in Sheffield

May 1—October 31, 2010

Exhibit of Little Family Letters

DAN RAYMOND HOUSE MUSEUM

Reception: June 19, 3-5 pm

June 12—July 11, 2010

ABCs of Letter Writing

OLD STONE STORE GALLERY

FROM THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

In meetings in February and March, the Conservation Commission conducted the following business:

Marcus Pezze of 518 Berkshire School Rd. has asked for a determination of applicability (whether the Wetlands Preservation Act applies) for his project, an upgrade of a septic system. Chris Tryon of Kelly, Granger and Parsons, an engineering firm, stated that the current septic system had failed and the proposed location is the best possible site for a replacement. After a site visit, the commission agreed. Tryon explained that a new technology will be used in which the effluent is treated by aeration rather than relying on a leaching field and produces a cleaner effluent and is easier to install. The Commission determined that the wetlands laws do not apply (a negative determination).

Frederick Murnane at 684 North Main St. has asked for a determination of applicability to replace his failed septic system. Mike Parsons of Kelly, Granger and Parsons was present for the applicant. The existing tank is to be pumped, ruptured and filled with sand and a new septic tank and leaching field installed. Silt fencing will be installed around the work area during construction. The Commission issued a negative determination.

Lydon Developments, LLC, proposes construction of a commercial building, parking area, well, septic system and regrading of an area for vehicle storage on Rt. 7 north of Campo de Fiori, for a car repair business. Tryon of Kelly, Granger and Parsons also represented this applicant. The building would be within the 100-foot buffer zone of a protected wetlands. Approximately 25 cars would be kept on site, but there would be no long-term storage. [See also Planning Board, page 13.]

In addition, the applicant wishes to do grading for a parking area within that buffer but outside of the 50-foot buffer. The grading would deal with runoff onto property owned by a concerned neighbor, Micky Riva. The parking area's surface would be gravel, allowing runoff to leach into the ground, and there will be an underground storage area for any excess drainage. No drainage would run in the direction of Rt. 7, and the project had been approved by the state Highway Dept. after assurance that any roof runoff would be contained on the property.

The distance between the proposed septic system and the drainage area will be adequate. Some fill will be brought in on top of what will be created from excavation. A fence will be installed to keep vehicles off of the septic field.

The Commission made a negative determination, provided that it monitors the project during construction and that any activity within the 50-foot buffer be limited.

The Commission dealt with several outstanding requests for Certificate of Compliance, stating that work mandated by the Commission has been properly done. It approved sending one to Thomas Candee for property on Bull Hill Rd. It scheduled a site visit to Frederick Steinberg's property on 54 Rannapo Rd.

The Commission has received calls regarding excavation being done on the Larkin property on Rt. 7, where the elevation of the field was being modified to help address flooding issues. This is an allowable activity on property with an agricultural exemption. The Commission asked that straw bales be put between the work area and the adjacent stream.

The Commission also received a call from neighbors regarding a property on Salisbury Rd. Solvents from pool maintenance were going in the Schnob Brook. A site visit will be scheduled.

The Commission considered the Notice of Intent for a project likely to affect a protected wetland or resource area filed by Pattison and Carolyn Fulton for 197 Main St. The project is for a four-foot wide house addition and a separate garage in the buffer zone along Schnob Brook, which runs along the back of the property. Bob Fournier of SK Designs and Pat Fulton were present for the applicant. The addition will be supported by piers, which will be hand dug, although the construction of the garage will require the use of a backhoe. The applicant also wishes to remove a tree that is growing close to the house.

The entire lot is within 200 feet of the riverfront, and bordering vegetated wetland has been identified over 100 feet from the work site. The 100-year flood elevation has been determined and will have no impact from the proposed work. A rare wetlands plant species exists on the site, but it will not be affected by the proposed work. The state Natural Heritage and Endangered Species program is satisfied with the project as it has been proposed. An embankment will be rid of Japanese knotweed and replanted with native plants.

The Commission approved the application with the conditions that it be kept informed of certain details of the project.

In other business, Ed Ustico stated that he wishes to plant more crops closer to the wet area on Polikoff Rd and remove existing brush. The Commission scheduled a site visit to this area.

Following up on a letter from Hill Engineering regarding Tician Papachristou's concerns about work being done on an adjacent property, the Commission attempted to contact Mark Bachetti, who will be doing the construction in question. He is presently away and will be contacted upon his return.

The commissioners discussed their attendance at the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions seminar and decided it should be required for all new commissioners.

DE VRIES BUILDING SUPPLY INC.

21 BERKSHIRE SCHOOL ROAD SHEFFIELD, MA

- Lumber
- Garden Supplies
- Domestic & Livestock Feed



- Masonry
- Paint
- Insulation
- Hardware

Whether you're a contractor or doing the job yourself you'll find what you need at De Vries.

413-229-8777 413-229-8820 FAX
www.devriesbuildingsupply.com

SPECIAL EVENTS AS LAND TRUST WINDS UP ANNIVERSARY YEAR

The Sheffield Land Trust is concluding its 20th anniversary year with a flurry of public celebrations. The organization has a display showcasing the events and its work in the front window of Guido's store in Great Barrington through May 17.

Farm show

The Land Trust's joint show with the Sheffield Historical Society, "Voices from the Fields: The Family Farms of Sheffield," runs through June 6 at the Old Stone Store on the Sheffield Green. The exhibit uses photos and commentary to highlight Sheffield's farms, both historic and currently in operation. An opening reception for the public will be held on May 8, from 2 to 5pm.

Some 25 volunteers from the two organizations interviewed dozens of farmers and landowners—those currently working the land and those who have done so in the past. A small portion of what has been gathered thus far, illustrated with current and historic photographs, is featured in the show. The show marks the start, not the end of this project, and the organizations hope it will encourage more people to be in touch to share their memories, stories and photographs for an enduring archive for the community and future researchers.

The curators for the event are Susan Rothschild and Nancy Smith from the Land Trust and Betty Chapin, Gillian Hettinger, Jim Miller and Joanna Jennings for the Historical Society. They thank Kathy Orlando and Judy McGinnis for their supporting efforts.

(For more on the joint project, see the March/April issue of the *Sheffield Times*.)

Benefit performance

The Sheffield Land Trust joins with the Egremont Land Trust in presenting Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Gondoliers" by the famed Blue Hill Troupe of New York City on June 12 at 8pm at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington.

"The Gondoliers" is a delightful confection of royal intrigue, confused love and misguided ambitions, a satirical tale told through W.S. Gilbert's brilliant music and Arthur Sullivan's bubbling patter. Opening in London in 1889 at the Savoy Theater, the show was the last great comic opera by the pair.

For musical-theater lovers, this one-night-only event provides an extraordinary opportunity to experience a top-notch production, staged at our local meticulously restored historic theater. The Blue Hill Troupe, founded in 1924, is made up of dedicated amateurs and theater professionals and specializes in musicals and light opera. It has selected the Sheffield-Egremont Corridor Project, the land trusts' campaign to protect an iconic Berkshires landscape in the northwest part of Sheffield and the southeast part of Egremont, as the beneficiary of this summer's out-of-town performance.

Special gala packages that include a fabulous pre-theater dinner at

a private home in South County and premium theater seating will be available in addition to regular tickets.

This not-to-be-missed event will benefit a great project. Gala tickets are available from the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center box office at 14 Castle Street, Great Barrington (phone: 528-0100). Show tickets are available through the box office and online at www.mahaiwe.org.

Annual meeting and picnic

The Land Trust's Annual Meeting and Potluck Picnic will take place on June 26. All are welcome! The picnics are typically held on a local farm or other conserved land somewhere and are a good way to get to know the community and the organization. Details will be publicized in local media and on the Sheffield Land Trust's website (www.sheffieldland.org) closer to the event.



Dancing the night away. The benefit for the Friends of the Senior Center on April 17 served up big band music by the Eagles, refreshments and the chance to dance.

CARL VAN DEUSEN

ELECTRICIAN - MA LIC. #36403E

HEATING / AIR CONDITIONING

MA LIC. #BU024769 / CT LIC. #353948

OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN THE TRADES

ZENEX CENTRAL VACUUM SYSTEMS
AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTOR - SALES, SERVICE,
INSTALLATION

PHONE: 413-229-8624

CIVIL/ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

Title V Inspection • Percs & Soil Evaluations
Septic Designs • Wetland Permitting
Ch. 91 Dock Permits • Topographic Surveys
Land Planning • Building/Foundation Design
New Construction & Additions • Timber Frame Design
Construction Supervisor (CS76097)

Jeffrey F. Collingwood, PE
Special Projects Engineer

MA PE #35818

CT PE #21596

P.O. Box 343
Ashley Falls, MA 01222
jjcollingwood@aol.com

Ofc. (413) 248-5155
Cell (413) 429-1545
Fax (320) 210-9607

HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

The Home Front: Sheffield During WWII. Fri., May 14, 7:30 pm. Society trustee and avocational WWII historian, Greig Siedor, will give a talk on the impact of the war on daily life in Sheffield based on information gathered from the Society archives. Members of the community will also be invited to share their photos, memorabilia, and recollections. Dewey Hall, Rt. 7.

Voices from the Fields: The Family Farms of Sheffield. Sat., May 1-Sun., June 6. See page 17. Old Stone Store Gallery, Rt. 7. Hours: Fridays, 3:30-7pm (during Farmer's Market); Saturdays, 10-2 pm, Sundays, 11-3 pm. Opening reception: Sat., May 8, 2-5pm.

19th Century Correspondence in Sheffield. Two Society exhibits highlight the topic.

Little Family Letters. May 1 to Oct. 31. A newly acquired collection of letters written from Sheffield to Connecticut by members of the Little family, with period furnishings. Dan Raymond House Museum, 159 Main St. Hours: Tues.-Thurs., 11aM.-4pm, Sat., 1-4pm, or by appointment (call 229-2694).

The ABCs of Letter Writing: The History & Art of 19th Century Correspondence. June 12--July 11. Writing and related tools, including samples of calligraphy, samplers, fountain pens, inkwells, stamp collections, school desks, and writing tables. Old Stone Store.

A reception for both exhibits will be on Sat., June 19, 3-5 pm.

The Art & History of Calligraphy. Fri., June 11, 7:30 pm. Classical scholar and calligrapher, Susan Bachelder of South Egremont will discuss the art and history of the written word and alphabets. Dewey Hall.

WEBSTER INGERSOLL HOSTS CHAMBER EVENT

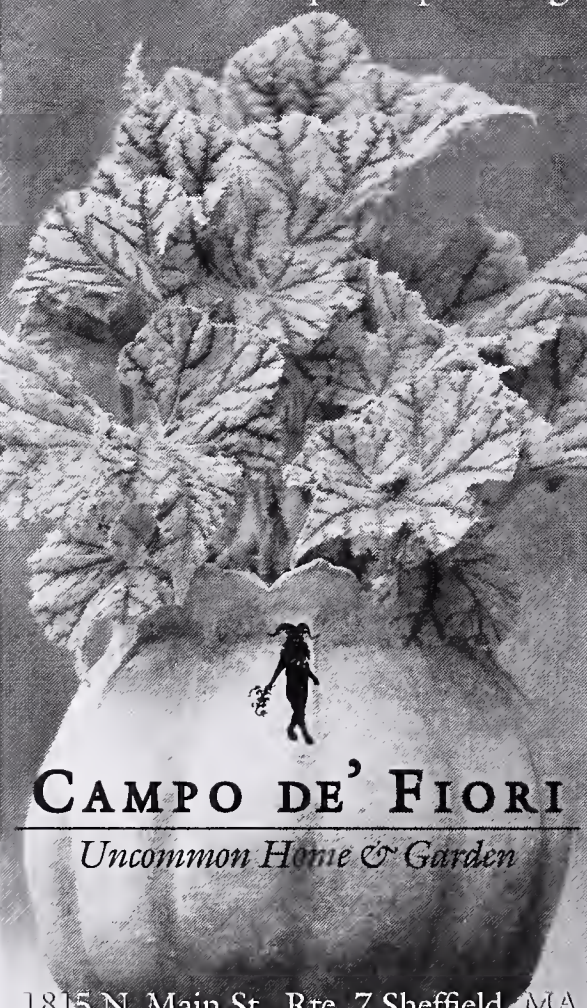
Nearly 100 businesspeople attended the Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce's monthly "Business After Hours" gathering April 8 at Webster Ingersoll, at 1719 North Main St. "It was one of our biggest turnouts ever," said Joy Lyon, "close to what we get at the annual Christmas party at Ward's Nursey."

The team at Webster Ingersoll showed off their new entry pergola, complete with samples of stonework. The office walls featured pictures of the firm's work, including landscape design, installation, maintenance, tree care and plant health care.

For more information about the Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce, visit the chamber website: www.southernberkshirechamber.com.

For more information about Webster Ingersoll, visit them online at www.websteringersoll.com.

inspired plantings



CAMPO DE' FIORI
Uncommon Home & Garden

1815 N. Main St., Rte. 7 Sheffield, MA
413-528-1857
Shop and garden open daily 10-5

*Welcome,
Diana
Holmes!*



*She's now at
Berkshire Styles Salon
on Fridays and Saturdays!*

**Berkshire Styles
Salon**

534 South Main Street
Sheffield, MA 01257
413.229.6654

Annie Juhlin
owner/stylist
Berkshirestyles.com

**KWIK
PRINT
INCORPORATED**

*From while-you-wait duplicating
to web offset printing...*

Color Copies • Fax Services • Laminating
Photocopies • Resumes • Spiral Binding

Books • Brochures • Business Cards
Envelopes • Flyers • Letterheads • Menus
Newspapers • Newsletters • NCR/Carbonless Forms
Posters • Programs • Tickets • Wedding Invitations

Typesetting/Graphic Design • Mac and PC Compatible
Digital Place Maker • Barcoded Mailing Services

COLOR COPIES

413/528-2885 Fax: 413/528-9220
35 Bridge St., Gt. Barrington, MA 01230
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:00-4:30 Sat. 8:30-12:00

KIWANIS NEWS AND EVENTS

Food pantry bonanza. In the late 1940s, Bing Perry, and Dinah all had hit records with this song: "I love those dear hearts and gentle people who live in my home town...because ... they never ever let you down!" The tune could have been the theme of our recent "Stuff A Bus" project.

What started as a simple plan to aid local food pantries (brought to us by Denise Rueger) gained such momentum in the final collection week that the bus was filled to overflowing with nonperishable food stuff and household goods. The bus, parked at the GMC lot on the Sheffield/Great Barrington town line, took contributions the week of April 19.

The bounty was divided between the food services of Sheffield and Great Barrington—their largest influx of goods since the holidays.

Joining Kiwanis in the effort were Great Barrington Rotary, Ormsbee Bus Co., Larkin Signs, WSBS and Berkshire GMC.

Young people rallied from schools in Sheffield and Great Barrington. The K-Kids of Muddy Brook Elementary collected 600 items. Donations came

from the Builders Club, Key Club and Aktion Club, all auxiliary branches of Kiwanis. Collections were received from SADD of Mt. Everett and the Cub Scout and Boy Scout Troupes of Sheffield. The Sheffield Historical Society donated and area businesses—Salisbury Bank, the Pittsfield Coop and Shear Image—accepted collection boxes. (We apologize if anyone was omitted; our deadline for this column was before the event.)

A giant note of thanks goes out to all those "dear hearts and gentle people" of South County. This was our most successful effort since "Warm the Children."

Spring cleanup and litter patrol.

Each year the club schedules a one-day project. On April 10, the Sheffield group did its annual multi-town cleanup of roadsides in the four villages where our members live. The group was joined by a contingent of Boy Scouts and members of the Aktion Club. They did 16 miles of litter pick-up filling 50 trash bags. David Johnson chaired the effort.

The Kiwanis' regular litter patrol began on April 22 when eight of our

most able picker-uppers cleaned the two miles of Route 7 from Kellogg Rd. to the National Grid parking lot. These monthly outdoor excursions, which continue through October, are headed by Steve and JoAnn Shmulsky.

Little League and other sports. The Sheffield/Great Barrington Little League program is well underway. When both fields at the Sheffield Town Park have contests, refreshments will be available from the Kiwanis Café, our trailer. Parent volunteers are welcome to assist in the food wagon—phone Patty Hardisty at 229-2513.

For the year 2010, the annual Kiwanis Golf Tournament at the Egremont Country Club will be taking place on Fri., July 9. Yes, it's not the usual time in June—we had to move it to July because of club conflicts.

No battle of the bands. The "Battle of the Bands" we'd announced for June 5 has been canceled for this season. Structural damage detected in the music shed on Berkshire School campus forbids activity in that building this summer.

—Dick Goodwin

REVERSE MORTGAGES

BIGGER LENDER - FASTER CLOSINGS - SAME GREAT SERVICE



Jessica Krupski
Reverse Mortgage Consultant
Senior Products Group
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
Serving Western Massachusetts and
Connecticut Regions
888 229-9908 Office
413 329-8399 Cell
jessica.krupski@wellsfargo.com



PRECISION AUTOCRAFT INC.

HIGH QUALITY BODY REPAIR & FINISHING

Complete Collision • Paint • Glass Services

Laser Frame Measuring

Computer Controlled Estimating and Paint Mixing Systems

THOMAS M. ANDRUS

Rt. 7, 1939 No. Main St., Sheffield MA 01257

(413) 528-1457 1-800-734-1457

Fax (413) 528-0186 • precision.auto@roadrunner.com

Master License
#A9383

Fully Insured
30 Years Experience

Joe Seward & Sons, Inc.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING

-Residential -Commercial
-Industrial

- New Construction
- Landscape Lighting
- Renovations
- Modular Homes

413-229-2561

COBBLE NEWS: Pulling Mustard Leads to Pot of Gold

At Bartholomew Cobble's annual workday in April, Rene Wendell, the conservation ranger for this National Natural Landmark, focused on getting the Cobble ready for another busy season. I volunteered to lead the garlic mustard removal team. Other teams tackled buckthorn and barbed wire left over from old farm days.

The two dozen volunteers joining us came from as far away as Saratoga Springs and Springfield and included a 10-year-old, a 5-year-old and a 3-year-old. It didn't take long for everyone to figure out how to identify garlic mustard by its wrinkly leaves and its distinctive garlic odor. First, we cleared the area by the screen house along the banks of the river. Next, we worked beside some cool rocky cliffs of limestone that the Cobble is famous for, giving it the sweet soil that has led to one of the highest abundance of fern species in North America. (The

illustrations for over 40 ferns in the Peterson guide were drawn here.)

We needed clippers to cut back raspberry canes and multi-flora rose so we could reach the garlic mustard rosettes. We were getting our hands scratched by thorns and the oldest child, Sam, was doing his best to free us with the clippers. I looked up to ask for his help with a troublesome snarl, but he had disappeared. Weeding my way closer to the ledges, I saw Sam's legs sticking out from the rocks.

Sam had found a mother lode of rusted barbwire deep in the cliff under some poison ivy and was pulling it out into the light of day for what looked to be the first time in a hundred years. "That's antique barbed wire," I told him and he was thrilled. "I found a piece of pottery," he said. I kept on weeding. "It has lines on it," he said. My mind began turning slowly. What kind of pottery

would end up in a little cave? "What kind of lines does it have?" I asked.

The fragment was gray-brown on one side and charred black on the other. The fine lines on the earthen side were scratched parallel to each other close to a finished edge. Looking closely, I could see mica impurities and grains of sand along the crack where the pot had broken. It looked to be primitive Colonial, made right from the native clay, or Native American.

"Wow," I said. "This is very, very old."

When we got back to the Visitor Center, Sam showed his pot shard to the ranger. Rene had been researching the subject of Native American pottery. He showed us a picture of a small pot with similar lines scratched around the rim. Sam's find matched exactly. The



The shard Sam found

EVENTS AT BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE AND ASHLEY HOUSE

Spring wildflowers are putting on an extraordinary display at the Cobble this year. Visit in early May to witness wild columbine decorating the boulders and ledges of the Eaton Path and the outer Ledges Trail. Check out the "What's in Bloom" board on the porch to find out what else is blooming throughout the season. During May and June, we once again welcome school groups from Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York to Ashley House and the Cobble. Students will spend a day exploring plant and animal life along the trails, and discovering Colonial life at the Ashley House.

Mother's Day Wildflower Walk & Tea

Sun., May 9, 10am-12 noon. Join Rene Wendell for a relaxing walk, followed by hot or iced or floral teas. Members: adult/child \$4; family \$10. Nonmembers: adult/child \$6; family \$15. Please pre-register.

Ashley House Opening Weekend

Sat. & Sun., May 29-30, 10am-4pm (last tour 3pm). Note there are new hours this year. Visit the oldest house in the Berkshires for two stories of freedom. Here, Mum Bet took a stand that helped end slavery in Massachusetts. Colonel Ashley penned the Sheffield Resolves prior to the American Revolution. Adults \$6, children free. Trustees members and Sheffield residents free.

Memorial Day Canoe Trip

Mon., May 31 9am-12noon. On this guided paddle, explore the rich and varied habitats of the winding Housatonic. Watch for bald eagles, bank swallows and other wildlife. All equipment provided. Adults \$30,

Bartholomew's Cobble, a 329-acre property of The Trustees of Reservations with five miles of trails, is located on Weatogue Rd. in Ashley Falls. It's open year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset. The Visitor's Center is open 9am-4:30pm. From Rt. 7 in the center of Sheffield, travel south and turn right on Rt. 7A and follow for 0.5 mile. Turn right on Ran-

napo Rd. and follow for 1.5 mile. Turn right on Weatogue Rd. to the entrance and parking on the left. Regular admission is free for members of the Trustees of Reservations and Sheffield residents. Non-members: \$5 adult, \$1 child. To register for events, call 229-8600 or email bcobble@ttor.org. Check the website for the latest: www.thetrustees.org.

Wednesday Wellness Walks

Wednesdays, 8:30-9:30am. A mix of meditative walking and social time led by Margo and Lawrence Davis-Hollander. Free. Learn more at www.coachingvision.info.

Thursday Eco-Volunteers

Thursdays, spring-fall. 9am-12noon. Help maintain the plant diversity that makes the Cobble famous. Call in advance for information. Free.

Father's Day Canoe Trip

Sun., June 20 9am-12 noon. See Memorial Day.

Visitor Center & Natural History Museum

Open daily, 9am-4:30pm. Check out displays about the ferns, wildflowers, and wildlife found at this National Natural Landmark. Children will enjoy a touch table, fur, bones, antlers, eggs and arrowheads. A "What's in Bloom" board is updated weekly. Trails are open dawn to dusk daily. Sheffield residents and members: free. Nonmembers: adult \$5, child ages 6-12 \$1.

Summer Preview

Most Sundays: Housatonic River Paddle. July 17: Reptile Day & Fun for Families. July 31: Live Birds of Prey with Tom Ricardi. Aug. 14: Wild Mushroom Edibles. Aug. 21: Mum Bet Day Celebration. Sept. 21: Moonlight Paddle. Sept. 18: Sunset Serenade.

napo Rd. and follow for 1.5 mile. Turn right on Weatogue Rd. to the entrance and parking on the left. Regular admission is free for members of the Trustees of Reservations and Sheffield residents. Non-members: \$5 adult, \$1 child. To register for events, call 229-8600 or email bcobble@ttor.org. Check the website for the latest: www.thetrustees.org.

THE RANGER SAYS....

Pottery was first used by New England Native Americans about 3,000 years ago. The soils and moisture in our area don't preserve it like western climates, so finding some is fairly rare. It's likely Sam's find is 1,000 to 3000 years old. Please respect these historic treasures and do not go searching for them or removing them.

Garlic mustard is an invasive plant from Europe that smothers native wildflowers and poisons a native butterfly, the mustard white. Chemicals from garlic mustard affect soil chemistry and inhibit the growth of sugar maples and other key species. Unlike buckthorn, barberry and bittersweet, this invasive is easy to pull. It's even fun! If you get it early, before it flowers, you don't have to burn the plants. Just shake the dirt out, drop them and it's done!

By May, you'll see the small white flowery faces of garlic mustard along many roadsides and in your own yard. You can bring it under control with a few quick weedings a year. At the Cobble, there is very little left in the core wildflower area. The remaining task is to remove it from the outer fringes of the property.

—Rene Wendell, Trustees Conservation Ranger

smoke marks inside meant the pot was "fire cured." Sam didn't want to part with it, but felt a little better when Rene told him it could go in the display case beside the arrowheads, labeled with Sam's name.

Rene reminded us that Bartholomew's Cobble is off limits to all digging—except garlic mustard and other invasives—and that anything

found on the property belongs to The Trustees of Reservations.

You can see Sam's pot fragment and other artifacts at the Cobble's Visitor Center. And on any a Thursday morning, you can join the invasives team on their project of the day! You probably won't turn up a treasure like Sam's, but you will be helping to preserve a natural treasure.

—Tammis Coffin

LEGION HALL REDONE

The American Legion Post Hall is the venue for many events and fundraisers in addition to American Legion functions, and it's been the home for Boy Scouts and Cub Scout packs sponsored by the Post. With all this activity, the hall needed sprucing up.

Thanks to generous donations and support during our fund-raising events, we've given our hall a makeover. It's been painted in a brighter color scheme and given coordinated window treatments. The main hall floor now is covered with broadloom carpeting, and some envision a dance floor being installed. Tile flooring has been installed in the hall in front of the serving window, too.

The redecorating committee—Frank Clarke, Bruce Philbrik, Dale Alden, Scott Erwin and Matt Nagle—would like to thank Carole King of Details, Inc., in Sheffield, for her advice and support with the Post project. We owe much to her insight! We also owe much to all the Post members, especially those who contributed their time, talents, and materials to complete this project.

—Dale Alden

FIREWOOD

Cut and split

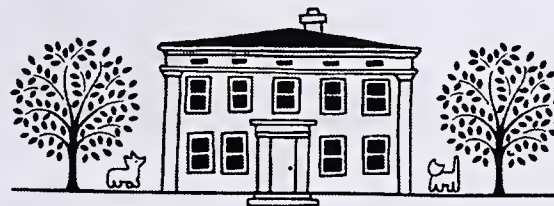
**Take delivery BEFORE
September 1st and SAVE!**

\$180 per cord, delivered locally

**\$650 for log truck load
of oak, maple, ash**

RJBeham Forest Products

Ashley Falls, MA 413-229-2182



SANDRA PRESTON REAL ESTATE
Massachusetts, Connecticut & New York Properties

Representing Buyers and Sellers in the Tri-State area for over 30 years. If you are planning to buy or sell, please contact us. Our office is open 7 days a week. We are members of the Berkshire Board of Realtors and their Multiple Listing Service as well as the Litchfield County Board and their MLS. Visit our website at www.sandraprestonrealestate.com, e-mail: pressa@verizon.net, or just call us at 413-229-2077.

575 Sheffield Plain, (Route 7)
Sheffield, MA 01257
Sandra Preston, Broker, GRI, CRS



A new sign graces the gable on the addition to Sheffield's Fire House, its bays large enough to fit modern trucks. The Hose Company has been raising money to fund the project. Phase 2 will add a second floor to the older section.

FIRE LOG

— Rick Boardman, Chief

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|
| 2/8 | Propane leak at 313 Salisbury Rd.
Time out: 5:45pm. Time in: 6:07pm. | 3/23 | Dog rescue in the Housatonic River. Time out: 4:18pm. Time in: 5:06pm. |
| 2/13 | Investigate black smoke at 10 Cedar Lane. Time out: 12:15pm. Time in: 12:38pm. | 3/25 | Fire alarm at 245 N. Undermountain Rd. Time out: 5:51pm. Time in: 6:20pm. |
| 2/22 | Chimney fire at 1930 Home Rd. Time out: 8:23pm. Time in: 9:21pm. | 3/27 | Mutual aid for the North Canaan, CT Fire Dept. Time out: 6:31pm. Time in: 8:41pm. |
| 3/4 | Transformer fire at 229 Hewins St. Time out: 9:38am. Time in: 10:22am. | 3/30 | Chimney fire into wall at 147 Bears Den Rd. Time out: 4:36am. Time in: 5:45am. |
| 3/9 | Car accident at Home Rd. and Old Joe Rd. Time out: 1:45am. Time in: 5:45am. | 4/1 | Fire alarm investigation at the Sheffield Library. Time out: 3:29pm. Time in: 3:55pm. |
| 3/16 | CO detector alarm at 46 Clayton Rd. Time out: 6:15am. Time in: 6:36am. | 4/12 | Brush fire at 535 Polikoff Rd. Time out: 10:35am. Time in: 11:38am. |
| 3/17 | Fire alarm on Silver St. Time out: 7:37am. Time in: 7:47am. | 4/12 | Car accident on Silver St. Time out: 4:18pm. Time in: 4:58pm. |
| 3/19 | Brush fire at 816 Barnum St. Time out: 3:09pm. Time in: 3:55pm. | | |
| 3/20 | Brush fire at 15 Spring Hollow Rd. | | |

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

March

- | | | | |
|---|---|----|---|
| 3 | Peter R., Daniel S. H., Jonathan M. & Jeanne Cherneff to Ahmad Jamal, property at 1194 Ashley Falls Rd., \$480,000. | 10 | Marcus John Pezze to Victoria Negrete, property at 518 Berkshire School Rd., \$230,000. |
| 9 | Richard R. West to Dustin Hewins, property at 647 Silver St., \$175,000. | 10 | John R. & Vicki L. Benedict to Katherine Russell Lindsay & Charles Edmund Bell, property at 674 Rannapo Rd., \$185,000. |
| | | 31 | Bank of New York Mellon Trust Co. to Jayson and Leidy Mendoza, property at 801 Clayton Rd., \$240,000. |

The Sheffield Historical Society



COLLECTING, PRESERVING AND TRANSMITTING
SHEFFIELD'S HISTORY FOR THE FUTURE

The 1774 **Dan Raymond House Museum** offers exhibits & tours: Tuesday-Thursday, 11 am to 4 pm & Saturday, 1-4 pm.

Come explore the daily lives of common people from the Revolutionary generation onward, including the intriguing history of the Sheffield Tory for whom the house is named.

The **Mark Dewey Research Center** houses the town's early archives, including tax & real estate records, historic photographs, and genealogical research. Open year round, Monday & Friday 1:30-4 pm and by appointment.

Email: mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org

The 1834 **Old Stone Store** located on the town green functions as the Society's gift shop and exhibition space.

Open weekends, Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm
& Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm (April-Dec.)

159 Main Street | PO Box 747 | Sheffield, MA 01257

413.229.2694 | shs@sheffieldhistory.org

WWW.SHEFFIELDHISTORY.ORG

PJ's Country Convenience Store

CATERING

All Size Parties

DELI

Specialized Sandwiches,
Soups, Salads & Homemade Foods

LOTTERY • BEER • WINE • GROCERIES

139 South Main St., Sheffield, MA
413-229-6610

Calendar Page

ONGOING CALENDAR ITEMS

May

- 8 "Voices From the Field" reception (p. 17)
- 8 Oil and paint recycling (p. 10)
- 9 MOTHER'S DAY
- 10 Town elections (p. 1)
- 20 Senior Center potluck lunch (p. 10)
- 22 Composting workshop (p. 12)
- 21 Sheffield Farmers Market opening celebration (p. 4)
- 31 MEMORIAL DAY (PARADES: Ashley Falls starts at 8am on the Village Green, then down E Main St to the cemetery on Cloyton Rd; Sheffield starts at 11am at the Police Station then up Rte 7 to Barnard Park.)

June

- 3 Senior Center volunteer recognition (p. 10)
- 5 Dewey Hall Folk Series: Robin O'Herin (p. 4)
- 12 "Gondoliers" benefit performance (p. 17)
- 15 DEADLINE FOR THE MAY/JUNE ISSUE
- 19 Save the date for Sheffield Times fundraiser!
- 20 FATHER'S DAY
- 26 Children's book sale (p. 9)
- 26 Sheffield Land Trust annual meeting and picnic (p. 17)

July

- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 12 Library summer camp begins (p. 9)
- 19 Kops & Kids camp begins (p. 15)

See also the listings for Historical Society (p. 18), Kiwanis (p. 19)
and Bartholomew's Cobble (p. 20)

Buy local, read local!
Please contribute!

Meetings or events that occur less than weekly are noted with a week number – i.e. "1st, 3rd" indicates meetings on the first and third times that day occurs in the month. * indicates appointment needed. Town functions listed first.

Meals on Wheels, Mon-Fri, except holidays

Mondays:

Building Inspector, Town Hall, 7am-12 noon
Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 7pm, 1st, 3rd
Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd, 4th (2nd only for winter)
Board of Health, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd
Food Assistance Program, Old Parish Church, 9-10:30am
Foot care clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Ctr., 1st

Tuesdays:

Building Inspector, 7am-12 noon
Council on Aging, 5pm, 2nd
Ashley Falls Historic District Commission, Town Hall, 6:30pm, 2nd
Industrial Development Commission, Town Hall, 7:30pm, last
Senior Center physical fitness, 9am
Children's Story Hour, Library, 10am
Senior Center "Lawn Chair Movie," 11:30am
Kiwanis Club, The Bridge Restaurant, 6:30pm

Wednesdays:

Senior Center Knitting Group, 3pm, 1st

Thursdays:

Planning Board, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd, 4th
Commission on Disabilities, 1st
Building Inspector, Thurs. 3pm-6 pm
Senior Center physical fitness, 9am
** Blood Pressure Clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am-12pm, 2nd*
** Hearing Testing available, Senior Center, 3rd*

Fridays

Building Inspector, 7-10am
Farmers' market, 3:30-6:30pm

Saturdays:

Dewey Hall Folk Music Series, 8pm, 1st
Senior Center Knitting Group, 11am, 3rd

Sundays:

Men's Group, Old Parish, 7:45am, 2nd

SUPPORT THE SHEFFIELD TIMES, YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER!

Yes, I want to support the Sheffield Times!

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other _____
made payable to the Sheffield Association, P.O. Box 1339, Sheffield, MA 01257

Name: _____
(as you would like it to appear in acknowledgments)

Address: _____
(where you would like issues mailed to you)

Email: _____

☐ I'd like my contribution to remain anonymous

☐ I'd like to get more involved with the Sheffield Times

☐ I am particularly interested in or have experience with _____

The Sheffield Times is provided free of charge at public distribution sites throughout Sheffield and Ashley Falls. We will mail issues for a year to everyone who makes a donation unless you tell us otherwise. Please check here if you do not want issues mailed to you: ☐

The Sheffield Association is a nonprofit organization. Donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.



Sheffield TIMES

Community Newsletter for
Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA
P.O. Box 1339
Sheffield, MA 01257
sheffielddtimes@hotmail.com

PRSR STD
AUTO
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SHEFFIELD, MA
PERMIT NO. 4

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, JUNE 19

SHEFFIELD TIMES FUNDRAISER

**SUPPORT HOMEGROWN
JOURNALISM**

BUY LOCAL – READ LOCAL

WATCH FOR DETAILS

The Sheffield Times Annual Appeal

Each year the Sheffield Association must raise \$20,000 to keep the *Sheffield Times* going, to pay for printing, postage, insurance and the like.

Our annual appeal has so far brought in \$8,000 as of mid-April. Please be generous! Support your community newsletter and help us keep publishing! Use the coupon on page 23.

